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**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number	09/386,450
Filing Date	August 31, 1999
First Named Inventor	HÖTTEN et al.
Group Art Unit	1647
Examiner Name	D. Romeo
Attorney Docket Number	2923-0278

Title of the Invention: NEW GROWTH/DIFFERENTIATION FACTOR OF THE TGF- β FAMILY

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 25, 2003

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Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated November 25, 2002, Applicants request entry of the amendments below and reconsideration of the application.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 20-22 and 24-29 without prejudice or disclaimer.
Please add the following new claims to the application.

--30. An isolated protein of the TGF- β family encoded by an isolated DNA molecule which comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
 - (b) a part of SEQ ID NO:1 which encodes nucleotide 1783-2142 and encodes the mature protein,
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 2,